

Honoring Our Veterans and Supporting Our Troops

As a proud veteran of the U.S. Army and a Member of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, Congressman Burton believes there is no greater priority than supporting the brave men and women who have sacrificed so much for our country and those who continue to defend our freedoms. Congressman Burton has worked diligently to help secure the funding that our nation's heroes need and deserve, including:

Force Protection:

The recently enacted war funding measure dramatically increases funding for our troops in the field, including:

- **Body Armor** – \$75 million is provided to purchase 47,000 additional sets of body armor. Over the last two years, more than \$875 million has been provided to purchase over 548,000 sets of body armor for our troops; and,
- **Armored Vehicles** – \$767 million is provided to armor a total of 5,559 Humvees, and \$900 million is provided for add-on armor packages. Over the past two years, \$1.66 billion has been provided for more than 7,400 Up-Armored Humvees.



Congressman Burton meets with an Indiana veteran at the World War Two Memorial in Washington, D.C. Hundreds of Hoosier Veterans made the trip out to Washington for the dedication ceremony honoring the contribution of Indiana's brave service men and women during World War Two.

Healthcare:

Congressman Burton voted in favor of the Veteran's Healthcare Supplemental Appropriations Act (H.R. 3130). The bill provides the necessary \$975 million to fund the Veterans Administration (VA), including:

- \$273 million to fund healthcare for returning Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom veterans, including members of the Guard and Reserve;
- \$226 million to continue funding the shared federal and state VA long-term nursing home program;
- \$84 million to purchase emergency medical equipment; and,
- \$39 million to pay for the increase in healthcare benefits for dependants.



Congressman Burton gives the keynote address at the opening ceremony for the Veterans Healing Field at the Oakman Memorial Garden and Funeral Center in Fishers. The ceremony featured a flag tribute to those brave U.S. Service Members who have lost their lives defending our freedom in Iraq and Afghanistan since September 11, 2001.

Death Benefits and Gratuity:

- The Republican-led Congress increased the maximum life insurance benefits for service members from \$250,000 to \$400,000; and,
- The one-time death gratuity for combat related fatalities is increased from \$12,000 to \$100,000, and is made retroactive to the start of the conflict in Afghanistan.



UNITED STATES CONGRESS

WHY THE WAR ON TERROR IS SO IMPORTANT

Dear Friend:

Almost four years ago on September 11, 2001, America witnessed the unspeakable when our Nation was attacked and more than 3,000 innocent lives were cruelly taken from us at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and in Pennsylvania. In response to this cowardly attack of terrorism, our commander in chief declared a Global War on Terror and resolved to track down the terrorist cowards who committed those acts, bring them to justice, and take away their capabilities to ever do anything like that again either in the United States or anywhere else in the world.

Since then, as the famous songwriter George M. Cohen so eloquently stated in his song, "Over There," "...the Yanks are coming... And we won't be back till it's over over there!" we have aggressively taken the battle to the enemy and forced them to fight on our terms in places like Afghanistan and Iraq.

By taking the war to freedom's enemies, we are forcing al Qaeda, the Taliban, Hamas, Hezbollah and other vile terrorists to use their resources over there making them less likely and less able to carry out further terrorist attacks in America. Taking the battle to the enemy doesn't guarantee there won't be more terrorist attacks in the United States, or elsewhere around the world, but in this fight against Islamic extremist terrorism, it is wiser and safer for America to fight the battle in the streets of Fallujah and Tora Bora, than the streets of Indianapolis. America is safer because our troops are stationed in Afghanistan and Iraq.

As we have witnessed, al Qaeda has grown more desperate with each passing day, and has begun bombing civilian infrastructure sites in Madrid and London. Americans can feel reassured that these horrendous acts of barbarism and terrorism are not signs of an increased terrorist threat, but a true and remarkable sign that we are winning the Global War on Terror. There are even reports that a Taliban and al Qaeda are recruiting young boys to join their ranks of terror in a last-ditch attempt to bring harm to American and Allied forces. By bombing "soft targets" and recruiting boys to fight their battles, the terrorists have no where else to turn. A free and emerging Afghanistan and Iraq, is proof positive that America is winning this war on terrorism and securing a safe future for the entire free world.

I know many Hoosiers are wondering how much longer our brave troops will be engaged in Afghanistan and Iraq. The straight truth is that we still have a tough fight ahead of us that requires a strong and steadfast U.S. military presence. However, as soon as Afghan and Iraqi security forces are able to step in and take firm charge of their own security, we will start reducing our troop levels and starting bringing our brave service men and women home.

As Sir Winston Churchill said in his famous "We Shall Fight on the Beaches" speech, "Wars are not won by evacuations." Just as we did in World War II, we must continue to stay the course in Afghanistan and Iraq. While there are many more tough months and perhaps even years ahead, we must not underestimate the progress we are making.

A free Afghanistan and stable Iraq will not only be shining examples of democracy flourishing in a once-troubled region, they will ultimately secure a greater peace and stability for all Hoosiers and all Americans.

Sincerely,

Dan Burton
Member of Congress

Reforming Social Security

Washington is Spending Your Retirement Savings

- Washington has tapped into your Social Security Trust Fund 59 times in the program's 70-year history; and,

- Washington has cut Social Security benefits six times while raising Social Security payroll taxes more than 20 times since 1935.

Doing Nothing Comes with a High Price

- When Social Security was created in 1935, the average life expectancy was 60. Today, the average American life expectancy is 77. Americans are living longer and collecting more Social Security benefits; and,
- Without significant reform, Social Security faces an eventual **shortfall of \$10.4 trillion**, or roughly \$35,000 for every man, woman, and child in America. Under the current system, today's workers will face either a **30% benefit cut or a 43% tax increase** by the time they reach retirement age.

Necessary Reform: The Benefits of Personal Retirement Savings Accounts (PRAs)

- If you are 55 or older, Social Security will NOT change under any reform plan Congress is considering;
- Personal Retirement Accounts (PRAs) are completely voluntary and they are your property – meaning you can pass it down to your children and grandchildren;
- PRAs give workers under 55 the option to invest in their own future by saving and managing a portion of their payroll taxes;
- Participating will be easy. Workers will be able to allocate their money to a limited selection of secure funds;
- These accounts will be managed by the Social Security Administration and can **ONLY** be used for retirement;
- In fact, federal employees – from your mailman to our brave military service men and women – can already participate in a similar personal retirement account savings program.

The worst plan for Social Security is to do nothing and leave your money in Washington for bureaucrats to spend.



Source: House Republican Conference, Deborah Pryor, Chairman



Congressman Burton and Al Hubbard, Assistant to the President for Economic Policy & Director of the National Economic Council, talks to Hoosiers about the benefits of personal retirement accounts at his Social Security Town Hall Meeting in Noblesville.

Strengthening the Economy: A Record of Accomplishment

On Time & Under Budget:

Just like Hoosier families must live within their budget, the federal government must work within its means. For the first time in nearly 20 years, the U.S. House of Representatives has completed all of its appropriations bills before the end of the summer.

Congressman Burton believes that we are on track with fiscally responsible legislation that meets our nation's priorities, while at the same time saving taxpayers money by eliminating waste, fraud, and abuse.

Tax Cuts:

- Earlier this year, Congressman Burton was proud to co-sponsor and vote in favor of the **Death Tax Repeal Permanency Act of 2005** (H.R. 8). Congressman Burton strongly supports permanently repealing the anti-small business, anti-family death tax; and,
- Congressman Burton is hopeful that Congress will permanently enact the remaining provisions of President Bush's 2001 and 2003 job-creating tax cuts, including: repealing the tax on capital gains and dividends, and completely eliminating the anti-middle class family alternative-minimum tax.



Congressman Burton meets with a delegation from the Indiana Realtors Association to talk about the repeal of the estate tax.

Job Creation:

- More Americans are working now than ever before;
- More than **3.7 million** jobs have been created since May of 2003, and the economy has **added jobs for 25 straight months**; and,
- Unemployment is **down** to 5.0%, the **lowest level since before the September 11th terrorist attacks**. The current rate is below the averages of the 1970's (6.2%), 1980's (7.3%), and the 1990's (5.8%).

Economic Growth:

- More Americans, especially minorities, **own their own homes** than ever before in our history; and,
- Federal revenues are coming in well above estimates – America's economy has now had **14 straight quarters of economic growth**.



Congressman Burton meets with a delegation from the Indiana Association of Mortgage Brokers to talk about current homeownership rates.

Reducing the Deficit:

- The Congressional Budget Office has **reduced its January 2005 federal budget deficit projection by \$94 billion**;
- Non-security **discretionary spending is on track to be lower than last year's level** – something that has not happened since the Reagan Administration; and,
- The House-approved budget **slows the growth of entitlement programs** for the first time since 1997.

Dan Burton
M.C.
PHSRT STD

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Review**



Dan Burton
Fifth District, Indiana

Strengthening the Economy • Success in the War on Terror
Reforming Social Security • Honoring our Veterans
Supporting our Troops

Contacting Congressman Burton

Congressional Update • 5th District Report

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Congressman Burton meets with a group of children at New Britain Elementary school in Fishers to talk about the importance studying hard and serving your community.

Your Congressman is just a click away....Please Visit Dan's Web Site
www.house.gov/burton

Congressman Dan Burton 2005 Town Hall Meeting Series

September 9

Tipton County	C.W. Mount Community Center 341 W. Jefferson Street (Tipton)	10am to 11am
Hamilton County	Carmel Clay Public Library 55 4th Avenue S.E.	1pm to 2pm

September 19

Shelby County	Shelbyville City Hall 44 W. Washington Street	10am to 11am
Hancock County	McClammon Government Center 10 S. State Street (Greenfield)	1pm to 2pm

October 3

Wabash County	Honeywell Center 275 W. Market Street (Wabash)	11am to 12 Noon
Huntington County	Huntington Public Library 200 W. Market Street	2pm to 3pm

October 7

Miami County	Peru City Hall 35 S. Broadway	11am to 12 Noon
Howard County	Kokomo Howard County Public Library 220 N. Union Street	2pm to 3pm